



Press Release

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SBA Announces Fayetteville Area Winners of NC Small Business Advocate Awards

Charlotte, NC – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named the North Carolina Financial Services Advocate of the Year for 2003, and the Veterans Small Business Advocate.

“It is a great pleasure to salute individuals that advocate on behalf of North Carolina’s small businesses,” said SBA’s North Carolina District Director Lee Cornelison.

On Thursday, May 15, 2003, the awards will be presented at the Fayetteville Chamber’s Coffee Club, 7:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux, Cafe Bordeaux, 1707 Owen Dr. in Fayetteville. Receiving the awards are Greg Taylor, NC Financial Services Advocate and Ron Duffer, Veteran Small Business Advocate.

Greg Taylor is the Director at the Small Business & Technology Development Center in Fayetteville. He and his office have assisted hundreds of clients and companies with a wide range of problems. His work with companies in his region has resulted in millions of dollars in capital infusion and hundreds of jobs. An experienced businessman, he was owner and operator of Specialty Products Corporation, an insurance marketing company and Taylor Products, Inc. a manufacturing company. He is active in his community serving on different boards which help to stimulate economic development in the region. A resident of Elizabethtown, he is currently the County Commissioner in Bladen County.

Ron Duffer is a business counselor at the Small Business & Technology Development Center. An active member of the local small business community, he has assisted veteran entrepreneurs in the area start and expand their businesses. Duffer has established relationships with local military bases, including the Army Career and Alumni Program at Fort Bragg. He gives seminars and provides one-on-one assistance to those veterans just leaving or about to leave the military.

*For more information about SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*